Jokes, Pranks & Parodies:

Fall 2014

Informants: Conna Tigges & brothers: Spencer and Keegan Tigges

Title: Edelweiss Parody: Bless our Friends

Text: song, ballad, parody

Context: family events and gatherings

Genre: Parody, tradition and mocking ceremony; goofy family song

“Bless our friends, bless our food, come oh Lord and sit with us, make our talk glow with peace, come with your love to surround us, friendship and peace may they bloom and grow bloom and grow forever. Bless our friends, bless our food, bless this family forever!”

This example of folklore requires its readers to know background information and metafolklore about the situation. My family decided to mock the Von Trapp family from The Sound of Music and develop our own words to the tune of the song Eldelweiss. As a family tradition only celebrated when every individual is present, we have eluded to turn the song into a parody rather than its sole purpose of merging prayer and family bonding together. The song can only be introduced to those who are engaged or married into the family though they are quick to sing the song publicly and disclose the lyrics. This parody is a comical event and really is a testament to our relationships with one another.

Fall 2014

Informants: Jamie Appelseis, Nicole Yacko, Shaelin Adams

Title: Girls will be Girls

Text: sign, signal, reminder

Context: for roommates and sorority sisters

Genre: inside joke; moody girl jokes
The title of this represents exactly what happens in most long-term friendships between women. We understand each others moodiness and can make jokes out of how we act around one another. This also requires metafolklore about my three roommates and myself. We have all been best friends living together for three years and at the beginning of this year, we decided that we wanted to name our room since we still live together in a sorority house. We had all been noticing that stress was really getting to us and we were taking it out on each other. Jamie in particular tends to play the role of “It’s my world and you’re all just living in it.” To mock this attitude that she sometimes has we put “Jamie’s World” on the sign outside our door to warn each other and anyone who comes in that she’s in a bad mood. However, this turned into a joke that anytime one of us roommates was having an attitude we would either swap our name out on the sign to warn our roommates and create comedy or we could elect to write each other’s names on it to tell each other to cool down. This style of publicizing the joke to anyone who comes in our room is clever and can be explained by any one of us.

![Image of a sign that reads Jamie's World](image)

Fall 2014

**Collector:** Ali Tigges

**Informants:** IU Fraternity

**Title:** Not Again…

**Text:** picture-- leaving a present (feces)

**Context:** rivalry between fraternities

**Genre:** Pranks; fraternity play

I spoke with many fraternity men about these kinds of situations and they informed me that pranks like this one happen weekly. Whether the men are stealing composites and emblems from each other’s houses or breaking into
each other’s Little 500 bike rooms to vandalize, it is usually all fun not to cause a ruckus. These are all very illegal pranks that are pulled on one another but they are generally never reported to authorities because then they wouldn’t be able to reciprocate. It is almost like a pact to just go with the prank and get the other chapter back with something worse. Unfortunately for this house, this is the third time that another fraternity has left feces on their front door and it happened as I was recording data for class. The style is this example is some form of feces being placed in front of the door in hopes of someone stepping in it. Usually everyone in the chapter finds out and doesn’t typically tell anyone about it. I got this data from my boyfriend and he asked that I do not include the name of the fraternity.

Fall 2014

Collector: Ali Tigges

Informants: Classmate (name not known)

Title: IU Basketball Jokes

Text: verbal joke told to classmates

Context: burn on the IU basketball scandal

Genre: College sports jokes; athlete stupidity

“What's worse than our football team not having skill?”

Answer: “Our basketball team not having brains.”

This joke I overhear in class from one guy to another as they discussed the drinking and driving scandals that have occurred on IU’s team. This is mockery of how pathetic it is that the talented team is the one that’s getting itself into trouble where the less talented team is the one staying out of trouble. Many of these jokes have been blazing all over campus and give rise to the embarrassment we feel about what has occurred. Sport jokes are particularly funny because we hold athletes to a high standard, but when they screw up we won’t let it down.